

INSIDE SEA GRANT

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Coastal Heritage Wins Award

The S.C. Sea Grant communications team was invited to attend the "Notable State Documents for 2000" awards ceremony held on March 20, 2001 at the S.C. State Library in Columbia. The Consortium newsletter, *Coastal Heritage*, received one of the ten awards. More than 2,300 documents were catalogued by the State Documents Depository System in the year 2000. According to the S.C. State Library, the purpose of the

annual awards is to "recognize state governmental publications of outstanding merit and usefulness to the citizens of South Carolina." The award ceremony was scheduled near Freedom of Information Day (March 16) to highlight the importance of government information as well as free and equitable access to public documents. For more information, visit the S.C. State Library Web site at www.state.sc.us/scsl.

Sea Grant staff hired

Romeka Washington joins the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium as an accountant and fiscal analyst. Romeka is responsible for a variety of accounting procedures, including



Washington

grants accounting and budget preparation.

Formerly the finance clerk for the Town of Kiawah Island, Romeka has a B.S. in business administration from University of South Carolina. Currently, she is on-track to

receive a M.B.A. from the Citadel, and will graduate in May 2002.

Susan Ferris is the new public information specialist for the Consortium. While the annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep project is one of her top priorities, Susan is also responsible for dissemination of information about all areas in which S.C. Sea Grant is involved.



Ferris

Susan comes to us from Madison, Wisconsin, where she was public relations director for an advertising agency. She holds a B.A. in journalism from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Traci Thompson-Bryant is a fiscal technician at S.C. Sea Grant and will help support our accounting department. Traci previously worked at Medical University of South Carolina, also as a fiscal technician.



Thompson-Bryant

Traci is currently working toward an accounting degree at Trident Technical College and will graduate in May 2002. She then plans to attend College of Charleston to earn a B.A. in accounting.

Inside Sea Grant is published two times a year to inform interested constituents about opportunities, activities, goals and accomplishments of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium.

S.C. Sea Grant Consortium is a university-based network supporting research, education, and outreach to conserve coastal resources and enhance economic opportunity for the people of South Carolina.

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Researchers ready for field studies

After long preparation, Land Use-Coastal Ecosystem Study (LU-CES) scientists have begun their field research. LU-CES is a multidisciplinary project involving scientists from several South Carolina and Georgia research institutions who will examine how various land uses and land-use changes affect the condition of marine resources. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Ocean Program, through the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, is funding the competitively approved LU-CES research program.

Science-based information gained from this program is targeted to help community leaders and resource managers prioritize and minimize land-use activities' effects on ecosystems.

"Local leaders often lack scientific information about the effects of various types and intensities of development on coastal ecosystems," said Rick DeVoe, executive director of S.C. Sea Grant Consortium. "People need research-based information upon which to make decisions, but it's often been unavailable or it's in a form that they can't use." LU-CES field research will initially be focused along the Okatee River watershed in South Carolina. Later in the program, Satilla River in Georgia will also be examined.

To date, LU-CES scientific teams have prepared State-of-Knowledge Reports, providing integrated statements of what is known about the relationship between land-use activities and the condition of marine resources in the southeast region. These reports and a synthesized document are published on the LU-CES Web page at inlet.geol.sc.edu/luces2/luces/LUCES_1.HTML.

LU-CES scientists recently initiated the first full year of field investigations. Researchers will examine the system's land-use patterns, physical attributes, hydrology, geochemistry, nutrient dynamics, surface and ground-water characteristics, toxic contaminants, and ecological effects in critters such as grass shrimp, juvenile clams, and oysters.

The project is a collaboration among scientists and staff from Beaufort County, Clemson University, Georgia Institute of Technology, NOAA/NOS Charleston Laboratory, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources Marine Resources Research Institute, U.S. Geological Survey, University of Georgia, and University of South Carolina.

Accomplishment

Sawyer speaks at Pew Commission

Cal Sawyer, S.C. Sea Grant Extension coastal environmental quality specialist, spoke before the Pew Oceans Commission during its March 27-29, 2001 fact finding trip to Charleston. The Commission, an independent group of leaders led by former White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, is conducting a national dialogue on policies needed to restore and protect living marine resources in U.S. waters. Sawyer briefed the commission on the critical importance of local land-use decisions and the cumulative effects they have on coastal water quality and biodiversity. The NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) program is developing a more sophisticated way for local land-use decisionmakers to visualize development alternatives for the future, Sawyer told the commissioners. After reviewing the best scientific information available, the commission will make formal recommendations to Congress and the nation.

WIND-AID project helps coastal elderly

Thanks to a new S.C. Sea Grant hazards project, some coastal seniors will be a little more prepared for next year's hurricane season.

The S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program, Charleston Area Project Impact, and Charleston HomeOwnership Center are sponsoring the project to provide plywood window coverings for senior residents on local barrier islands. The project, termed WIND-AID, used volunteer labor to outfit five Folly Beach homes with permanent hanger bolts and pre-cut plywood. Project Impact is a Federal Emergency Management initiative to build disaster-resistant communities.

"We've had tremendous support from the community," said **Beth Judge**, coastal hazards specialist for the S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program and coordinator of WIND-AID. Over 25 volunteers have worked weekends this year, climbing ladders and cutting plywood.

ts at a glance

113 Calhoun education facility receives national honor

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently presented a Project Impact Livability Award for Historic Preservation to the **113 Calhoun Foundation**.

Project Impact is designed to encourage communities to build public-private partnerships that allow an area to assess its vulnerabilities and prepare for natural hazards.

In presenting the award, FEMA noted the foundation's efforts in integrating historic preservation and disaster resistance at 113 Calhoun Street: A Center for Sustainable Living, a permanent education facility in downtown Charleston.

The center is a partnership of S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, Clemson University Extension Service, City of Charleston, Federal Emergency Management Agency, South Carolina state government, and Charleston County.

The structure is an example of how improved building materials and methods can help buildings survive high winds, flood, and earthquake hazards. Visit the 113 Calhoun Web site at www.113calhoun.org.

USC student wins Sea Grant fellowship

Julianna Weir, a graduate student in marine science at University of South Carolina, has won a John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship for 2001.

For her Sea Grant fellowship, Weir will work in the National Marine Fisheries Service's Office of Protected Resources. Based in Washington, D.C., she will set up workshops and meet with coastal community leaders around the country, providing training on health issues regarding whale strandings. She will teach coastal officials about how to take blood samples from stranded whales for studies on potential viruses. She expects to complete her M.S. in marine science this year.

To further the education of tomorrow's leaders, the National Sea Grant Office sponsors the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program, bringing a select group of graduate students to the nation's capital, where they work in the federal government's legislative and executive branches.

The students learn about federal policy regarding marine and Great Lakes natural resources and lend their individual scientific expertise to federal agencies and congressional staff offices.

Each of the nation's 30 Sea Grant programs can nominate up to five students to the Knauss fellows program each year. Selections are then made competitively from among those nominations.

Beach Sweep/River Sweep 2000 Update

Over 8,100 volunteers helped with last year's highly successful Beach Sweep/River Sweep, and through their efforts over 116,000 pounds of debris was collected from South Carolina beaches and waterways. The date for Beach Sweep/River Sweep 2001 is September 15.

For more information, e-mail Susan Ferris at Susan.Ferris@scseagrant.org.

New publication: Q&A

Looking to buy property near the ocean? A new booklet, "Q&A on Purchasing Coastal Real Estate in South Carolina," addresses natural hazards and other factors that can affect coastal property. Supported by S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program and S.C. DEHC/Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the booklet briefly describes the causes of shoreline erosion, construction features that help reduce or prevent hazard damages, and other pertinent issues. For a free copy, call (843) 727-2078.

S.C. SEA GRANT EXTENSION PROGRAM

S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program is a joint outreach program of Clemson University's Cooperative Extension Service and the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium.

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Message from the Executive Director:

Responding to coastal growth

Coastal growth in South Carolina and southeastern U.S. region will continue to receive a great deal of attention by decision-makers, local communities, and media. The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium will continue to provide information, strategies, and tools that local groups can use as they grapple with increased growth pressures on infrastructure and natural resources.



Rick DeVoe

The Land Use-Coastal Ecosystem Study (LU-CES), funded with a grant from the NOAA Coastal Ocean Program, seeks to develop science-based predictive decision-making tools, integrating knowledge about land-use changes with a greater understanding of their effects on the hydrodynamics, transport processes and ecosystem function in tidal creek-salt marsh systems. Further information on LU-CES can be found in this issue of *Inside Sea Grant*.

South Carolina NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) is a three-tiered information, education, and technical assistance program for protecting local water quality by linking land-use decisions with nonpoint source pollution. S.C. NEMO, funded through the SCDHEC Section 319 program, helps local officials understand what development issues are associated with polluted runoff and identifies innovative ways to address those issues before they become insurmountable.

Coast-a-Syst (Coastal Home Assessment System) is an environmental program designed to help residents of coastal regions protect surface and groundwater quality. Programmatic information, including interactive risk assessments, can be accessed from the Coast-a-Syst Web site at www.clemson.edu/sccoastasyst.

Coastal growth issues in South Carolina will become more pronounced in the future. How we deal with and respond to these challenges will in part depend on the availability and practicability of science-based information. The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and the institutions and partners it represents are responding to this challenge.



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